DATE HIT 2011
HB _ 566

House Bill 566 February 17, 2011 Presented by Dave Risley House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Dave Risley, Fish and Wildlife Administrator of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here in the first House Bill 566.

This has been a debate among staff, constituents and the FWP Commission for four years, and we have yet to come up with a system that works. FWP's current Bonus Point System provides individuals, who have been unsuccessful in drawings, a chance to increase their odds in future drawings. An individual who participates in the Bonus Point System receives a Bonus Point each time they are unsuccessful in a drawing. The Bonus Point will basically place the applicants name in the drawing an additional time for each Bonus Point awarded, thus increasing the chances to draw a particular license or permit. Like a lottery ticket, each additional bonus point provides a slight bump in your odds.

Any implementation of a bonus pints/preference system must identify winners and losers. FWP's current system provides a slight preference to those who apply for a permit over a period of years. HB566 squares bonus points over that same period.

I have added a couple of charts that reflect bonus point participation, examples of odds using current and squared bonus points, and the current existing bonus points prior to the 2010 drawings per species for your review.